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The Army medical school is to be the first building erected at a cost of \$500,000.

THE returns of the British registrar-general for the quarter ending September, 1921, have been issued. They show that in England and Wales there were 214,850 births, which were 15,017 fewer than in the third quarter of 1920. The rate was 22.5 a year for each thousand of population. The deaths numbered 99,134, and were 9,937 fewer than in the preceding quarter, but 5,444 more than in the third quarter of 1920. The rate was 10.4 per thousand. The infant mortality was 83 per thousand births, being 15 below the average of the ten preceding third quarters.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN endowment of \$110,000 for the department of art as applied to medicine has been given to the Johns Hopkins Medical School. The gift, by an anonymous donor, was transmitted to the trustees through Dr. Thomas S. Cullen. This department has been established since 1911, with Max Brodel at its head, the same anonymous donor having provided funds for its maintenance.

WORK has begun at Pomona College, Claremont, California, on a new chemistry building to cost nearly \$250,000. The building will be of reinforced concrete with tile roof and massive tower to conform with the accepted architecture of the college campus. It will provide facilities in undergraduate and research work for 600 students.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE has received a bequest of \$5,000 from the late Judge Ira A. Abbott for the increase of the salaries of professors.

At a meeting held on December 9, the board of regents of the University of Michigan voted to merge the homeopathic medical school with the medical school of the university. The expense for the maintenance of the homeopathic school was \$47,000 last year and there were seven graduates.

DR. GEORGE J. HEUER, associate professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has accepted the professorship of surgery in

the Medical College of the University of Cincinnati. By accepting the post, he will automatically become chief of the surgical service of the Cincinnati General Hospital.

PROFESSOR HENRY JORDAN has recently been made head of the department of electrical engineering at Colorado Agricultural College at Fort Collins.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL PRACTICE

THE article "Education in Relation to Public Health and Medical Practice, by Professor S. J. Holmes, which appears in the issue of SCIENCE of November 25, 1921, is a highly interesting presentation of a subject which will merit discussion. Its author, however, falls into the common error of those criticizing another profession than their own, of somewhat overstating the case and taking a too pessimistic view of a situation which is constantly being bettered, as, for instance, when he states that "a large part of the time of well-trained medical men is simply wasted in a kind of desultory practice from which their patients secure no permanent benefit," and that "humanity comes very far short of getting out of the medical profession the aid which it is capable of furnishing." As a matter of fact, there are 106,000,000 persons in this country the vast majority of whom are perfectly well cared for medically. The death rate in our larger cities is constantly falling and there are increasing numbers of organizations devoted exclusively to the study and promulgation of public sanitation which are maintained by physicians who furnish gratuitous time and energy without stint. The laboratory tests which the author enumerates are, for the most part, now taught to every third year medical student and the more elaborate tests of this order are not required by more than four or five per cent. of all patients.

The author further comments upon the ignorance of sanitation among our immigrants (which, of course, is deplorable) and writes that the "uninstructed foreigner" "fails to get competent aid when he is ill."